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INFORMATION REPORT

China

Political Information: Attitude of Prominent Northeast Citizens Toward Shooting of Students

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There is increasing resentment among Northeasterners over the failure of Manking and Peiping government officials to make redress for the shooting of Northeastern students in Peiping on 5 July. Prominent citizens, members of the Mortheast People's Association, have made formal protest to Nanking over lack of action in investigating the shooting. This group has informed Nanking that the Northeast will declare its independence from the Central Government unless remedial steps satisfactory to it are taken by August. There is no evidence that WEI Li-mung will join in such a movement unless it is initiated by FU Tso-yi in North China.

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Comment. These prominent citizens largely control the Northeastern population. The shooting of Northeast students in Peiping has given these citizens an excuse to press their demands for economic equality for the Northeast. It is doubtful that this episode will result in an immediate move for independence, but it does show the trend of thinking among the people. This protest is the first public expression of such a frame of mind. It is only a matter of time until such action will be taken, but an attempt to declare independence without military support would be abortive.)

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